



DSS BILLS ENACTED

PROGRAM OR AGENCY	BILL NO.	ACT NO.	TOPIC	SUMMARY
No Wrong Door	HB 445	88	Implementation of "No Wrong Door"	Authorizes the DSS Secretary to develop and implement a shared consent form and a common screening tool for multiple-need clients for implementation of the No Wrong Door initiative. The Secretary is also authorized to not only begin the process of developing, but also implementing, an integrated case management model.
Child Protection	HB 644	378	Repeals certain provisions relative to the disposition of reports and investigations of child abuse	Removes language from Children's Code Article 616 that conflicted with legislation passed last year mandating that OCS maintain information regarding not justified or false reports.
Office of Community Services (OCS)	SB 92	110	Mission of the Office of Community Services	Broadens the mission of OCS to include the provision of child abuse and neglect preventative services and voluntary services for family strengthening/support.
Licensing	SB 155	332	Allows DSS to promulgate rules with committee input and to take additional action with regard to child care facility licenses	Removes obsolete license definitions from the child care licensing statute, gives DSS the ability to revoke a Class A license if the child care committee fails to meet or act, and allows for the replacement of inactive committee members.
Child Protection	SB 160	333	Confidentiality of the Department of Social Services' case records	Authorizes OCS to release summary information contained in its child abuse or neglect records as follows: in child fatality or near fatality cases; to confirm, clarify, or correct information that has been made public by sources outside of DSS in all other cases; and to a mandated reporter who initiated the report. These provisions are permissive, thus OCS has the discretion to determine when such a disclosure is appropriate.
Child Protection	SB 243	338	Definition of "neglect" relative to child in need of care	Broadens the definition of "neglect" to include a newborn that has been identified by a health care provider as affected by the illegal use of a controlled dangerous substance, or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal illegal drug exposure caused by the parent. OCS will accept a report concerning such a newborn, provided the report is made within 30 days of the child's birth by a health care provider involved in the delivery or care of the child.

SUPER IMPACT BILLS ENACTED

PROGRAM OR AGENCY	BILL NO.	ACT NO.	TOPIC	SUMMARY
Child Welfare Workers	HB 422	59	Amends penalties for battery of a child welfare worker and creates crime of assault on a child welfare	Increases the criminal penalty for a battery against a child welfare worker, with the requirement that a portion of the penalty be served, and adds assault of a child welfare worker as a crime. The measure also amends the definition of a child welfare worker to include program representatives of the Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Association.
Juvenile Justice System	HB 880	119	Release or exchange of information concerning children and their families	Promotes efforts to reform and restructure the juvenile justice system, and improve the availability and quality of programs and services available through the system, by encouraging information sharing among certain state agencies, courts, district attorney's offices, school boards, law enforcement agencies, truancy assistance service centers, and FINS offices. The bill requires that the Children's Cabinet facilitate the development of interagency agreements and cooperation regarding the sharing of information concerning children and families involved in the juvenile justice system. It also sets forth the procedures for information sharing between certain state agencies and school boards, and the procedures for when a request for information is refused.
Child Protection	SB 161	148	Terminates voluntary relative placement of children without court supervision	Mandates that a court order is required whenever a child is removed from the custody of the parent or caretaker during or after an investigation of a report of abuse or neglect. Accordingly, OCS can no longer allow a parent or caretaker to voluntarily place a child involved in an investigation with someone else pending the completion of the investigation. The court can give custody to the state, or either a suitable relative or other suitable individual who has agreed to adhere to the conditions of a safety plan developed to protect the child.
Louisiana Military Family Assistance Fund	SB 216	151	Creates Louisiana Military Family Assistance Fund and Louisiana Military Family Assistance Board, and provides for donations to fund and distribution of amounts	Creates a special fund dedicated to assisting families of activated military personnel in special need situations. A special board is established within DSS to run the program. Monies in the fund will come from either appropriations and/or donations.
Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)	SB 237	135	Vending machine locations, pursuant to provisions of the Randolph-Sheppard Act	Authorizes LRS to enter into contingency fee contracts to identify and develop new vending machine locations within public and private buildings, pursuant to the provisions of the Randolph-Sheppard Act, which will generate additional funds for the blind vendors.

IMPACT BILLS ENACTED

PROGRAM OR AGENCY	BILL NO.	ACT NO.	TOPIC	SUMMARY
Child Support	HB 91	192	Filiation of children	Provides for a comprehensive revision of the Civil Code articles on the filiation of children and parents, both maternal and paternal.
Foster Care	HB 341	82	Vocational counseling for children in foster care	Authorizes OCS to provide vocational testing and counseling in each regional office to children in long-term foster care. Specifically states that each regional office will conduct a minimum of 3 one-hour counseling sessions with each individual served, and encourage children in care to take part-time jobs while in high school as a means of discovering their interests and fostering a sense of independence.
Licensing	HB 526	245	Licensing of adult brain injury facilities	Provides for licensure of adult brain injury facilities through the Department of Health and Hospitals. Licensing of these facilities will no longer be the responsibility of DSS Licensing, as licensing responsibility is transferred to DHH for this newly created program type.
Licensing	HB 528	483	Transfers licensing of certain long-term care providers from the Department of Social Services to the Department of Health and Hospitals	These five programs are transferred from DSS Bureau of Licensing to DHH Health Standards: Adult Day Care, Family Support, Supervised Independent Living, Personal Care Attendant, and Respite Care.
Juvenile Crime Victims	HB 784	74	Exception from confidentiality requirements as to the identity of juvenile crime victims	Provides for an exception to the existing law that requires confidentiality regarding the identity of juvenile crime victims. This bill allows for the release of the identity of the juvenile crime victim when such crime results in the death of the child.
Foster Care	HCR 82	NA	Requests the House and Senate committees on health and welfare to study the current laws and regulations governing children in foster care in the state	Requests the House and Senate Committees on Health and Welfare to study the current laws and regulations governing children in foster care in the state. The study results are to be presented to the Legislature and the Governor by December 31, 2006. This bill is identical to HCR 281 of the 2004 session, with the exception of the study due date which was originally December 31, 2005.
Licensing	HCR 96	NA	Requests the Department of Social Services to promulgate rules and regulations to provide for the licensure of after-school enrichment programs	The Bureau of Licensing is directed to promulgate rules and regulations creating a separate category of child day care license, known as an after-school enrichment program module. A preliminary draft of the proposed rules and regulations shall be submitted to the chairman of the House and Senate Health and Welfare Committees and the author of the resolution by August 4, 2005, and an emergency rule promulgated within 60 days after.

IMPACT BILLS ENACTED (Cont.)

PROGRAM OR AGENCY	BILL NO.	ACT NO.	TOPIC	SUMMARY
Child Protection	HCR 105	NA	Continues the Task Force on Legal Representation in Child Protection Cases	Continues the Task Force on Legal Representation in Child Protection Cases for a 3-year period to facilitate implementation of recommendations for an improved system of legal representation for children and parents in child protection cases. It provides for a legislative chair for the implementation phase, and adds as members the chairs (or their designees) from the Indigent Defense Services Task Force, the Foster Care Task Force, and the Juvenile Competency Task Force.
Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative	HCR 157	NA	Urges and requests state agencies to participate in the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative	The Office of Family Support and Office of Community Services are requested to work with the Offices of Public Health, Mental Health, Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, Addictive Disorders, and the Bureau of Health Services Financing within DHH, along with the Department of Education, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Department of Economic Development, the Division of Administration, and the Office of Youth Development in the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to develop a statewide implementation plan for the Early Childhood Comprehensive System by January 31, 2006, and to continue the collaborative effort in executing the implementation plan.
Licensing	HCR 172	NA	Requests the Department of Social Services to study the feasibility of promulgating and adopting rules and regulations to provide for the licensing of "drop-in" programs	The Bureau of Licensing is requested to study the feasibility of adopting and implementing rules and regulations to provide for the licensure of "drop-in" programs. A report regarding the feasibility of adopting and implementing rules and regulations shall be provided to the House and Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and to Representative Robideaux by February 15, 2006.
Solutions to Poverty	SB 266	404	Establishment of comprehensive program to combat poverty	The Department of Economic Development, Department of Health and Hospitals, Louisiana Workforce Commission, and Louisiana Board of Regents, through coordination by the Department of Social Services, are charged to provide recommendations to overcome poverty in Louisiana. The major strategies will be to engage, support, and empower local citizens to seek root causes and solutions to poverty. This initiative will build capacity in the local communities and provide information to the citizens about available resources to help in the reduction of poverty.

IMPACT BILLS ENACTED (Cont.)

PROGRAM OR AGENCY	BILL NO.	ACT NO.	TOPIC	SUMMARY
Amber Alerts	SB 318	503	Requirements for sex offender notification and registration and pre-Amber Alert action plan	Pertains primarily to the Department of Public Safety with regard to sex offender notification and registration requirements. DSS and the Department of Public Safety are to jointly institute a pre-Amber Alert action plan, consisting of one or more of the following programs to: advise and educate parents on ways to prevent their children from being abducted; advise and educate children on ways to prevent them from being abducted; encourage parents to have readily available vital information about their children, such as a recent photo, etc., and coordinate with and encourage the private sector to participate in secondary distribution programs that will enable the distribution of vital information on a child that has been abducted, including the creation and distribution of flyers and emailing and text messaging Amber Alerts.
Child Care Services	SCR 20	NA	Requests the Department of Social Services to study the impact of the state's sliding fee scale on the availability, affordability, and the quality of child care services funded by the Child Care and Development Fund	The Department is required to design and develop a study to evaluate the impact of the current sliding fee scale on availability, affordability, and quality of subsidized child care. DSS is also required to review the Child Care Development Fund's regulations regarding co-payments, and how other states have implemented co-payments, including costs to the state, and specific co-payment structures in states that have implemented quality rating systems. There will be no impact on employees and clients, as the services for this study will be accomplished through a contract.